

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

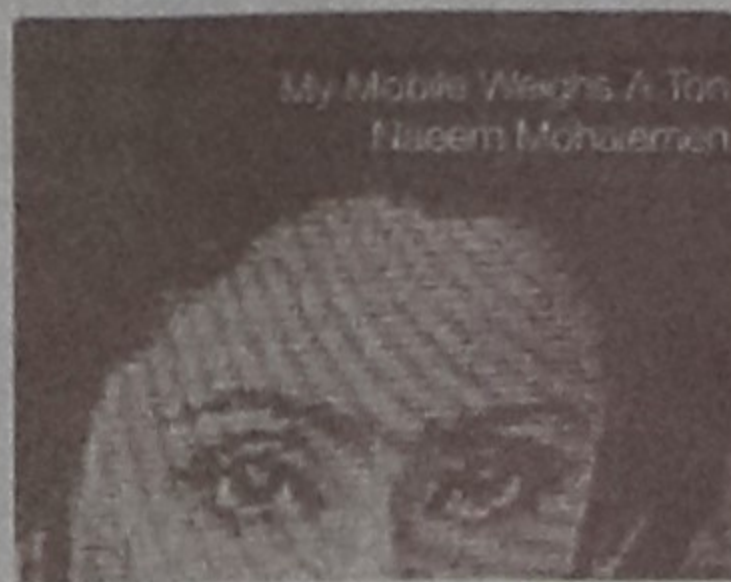
Exhibition

Title: Aloy Kaloy Aanka
Organiser: Photographic Forum, Prism
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, Rd 15a (new), Dhanmondi
Date: August 15-21
Time: 3pm-8pm



Installation and Photography Exhibition

Title: My Mobile Weighs a Ton
Artist: Naeem Miahmen
Venue: Gallery Chitrah, H921, Rd 4, Dhanmondi, Dhaka
Time: August 21-31
Time: 10am-8pm



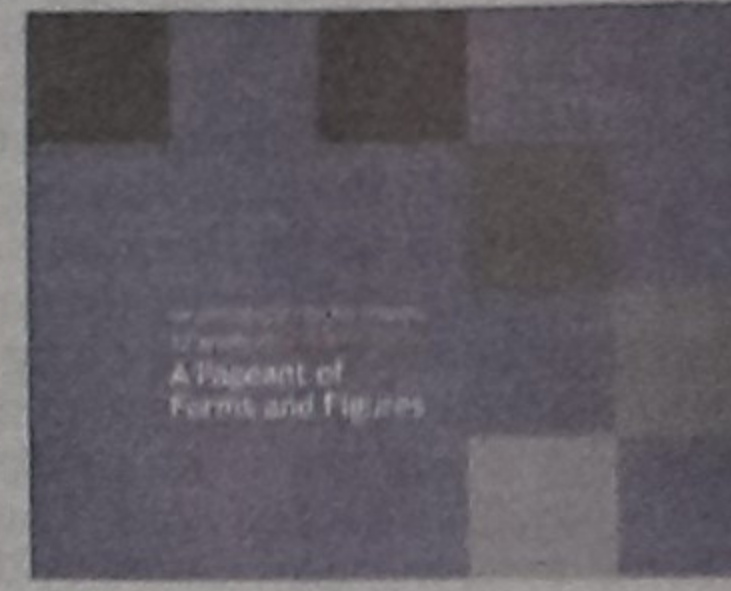
Film Screening

Documentary on Kazi Nazrul Islam
Organiser: Indian High Commission, Dhaka
Venue: Indian High Commission Cultural Centre & Library, H 35, Rd 24, Gulshan 1
Date: August 23
Time: 6:30 pm



Group Exhibition

Title: A Pageant of Forms and Figures
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: August 22-31
Time: 12am-8pm
Inauguration: 6pm, August 22



Concert for Abdur Rahman Boyati



(From top) Maqsood, Arnob and Krishnokoli perform at the concert.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

Abdur Rahman Boyati (centre) receives the cheque.

JAMIL MAHMUD

Abdur Rahman Boyati is one of the most prolific exponents of Baul songs. Throughout his life, Rahman Boyati has performed in over 40 countries and led cultural delegations to many international programmes. He is the recipient of six national awards including one Presidency Award.

Rahman Boyati is currently suffering from a neurological disorder, which affects his sight and movement. At present he is admitted at the Japan Bangladesh Friendship Hospital in Dhanmondi.

'Top of Mind', 'AV Graph' and 'Green Planet' jointly arranged a fundraiser concert at the Winter Garden, Hotel Sheraton on August 19 for the ailing bard. Popular artists and bands including James, Arnob, Krishnokoli, Maqsood O Dhaka and LRB performed at the concert.

Krishnokoli opened the gig and rendered only one song -- 'Jao pakhi bolo tarey' from the soundtrack of the yet to be released feature film *Monpura*.

Arnob also rendered a song from the soundtrack. The song, *Amar shonar moyna pakhi*, is a popular folk song and has been used in the film with contemporary arrangement by Arnob himself. "Let's have only folk songs tonight," said Arnob and then rendered two more songs including *Shona diya bandhaiyasi ghar* and *Aketo barir mosha*.

Next on the stage was the band Maqsood O Dhaka. Maqsood, who once generated much interest in Baul songs among contemporary urban listeners, rendered a number of popular songs including Rahman Boyati's *Mon amar dehoghori*. When Maqsood was with the band Feedback, he and Rahman Boyati composed a contemporary version of the song. Maqsood's other renditions at the show were *Gurur naam dhorey*, *Bangladesh and Melaye jairey*.

The organisers arranged a special moment for the audience: Rahman Boyati made an appearance. Despite his ailing health, Rahman Boyati came on the stage with the help of a medical team including his doctor. The bard

hoped to be back on the stage soon. The organisers handed a cheque worth Tk eight lakh. Incepta Pharmaceuticals Ltd. added Tk. two lakh to that amount, making the total Tk ten lakh. Geetara Safia Chowdhury, Faridur Reza Sagor, managing director of Impress Telefilm Ltd; Maqsood, Ayub Bachchu and others were present on the stage.

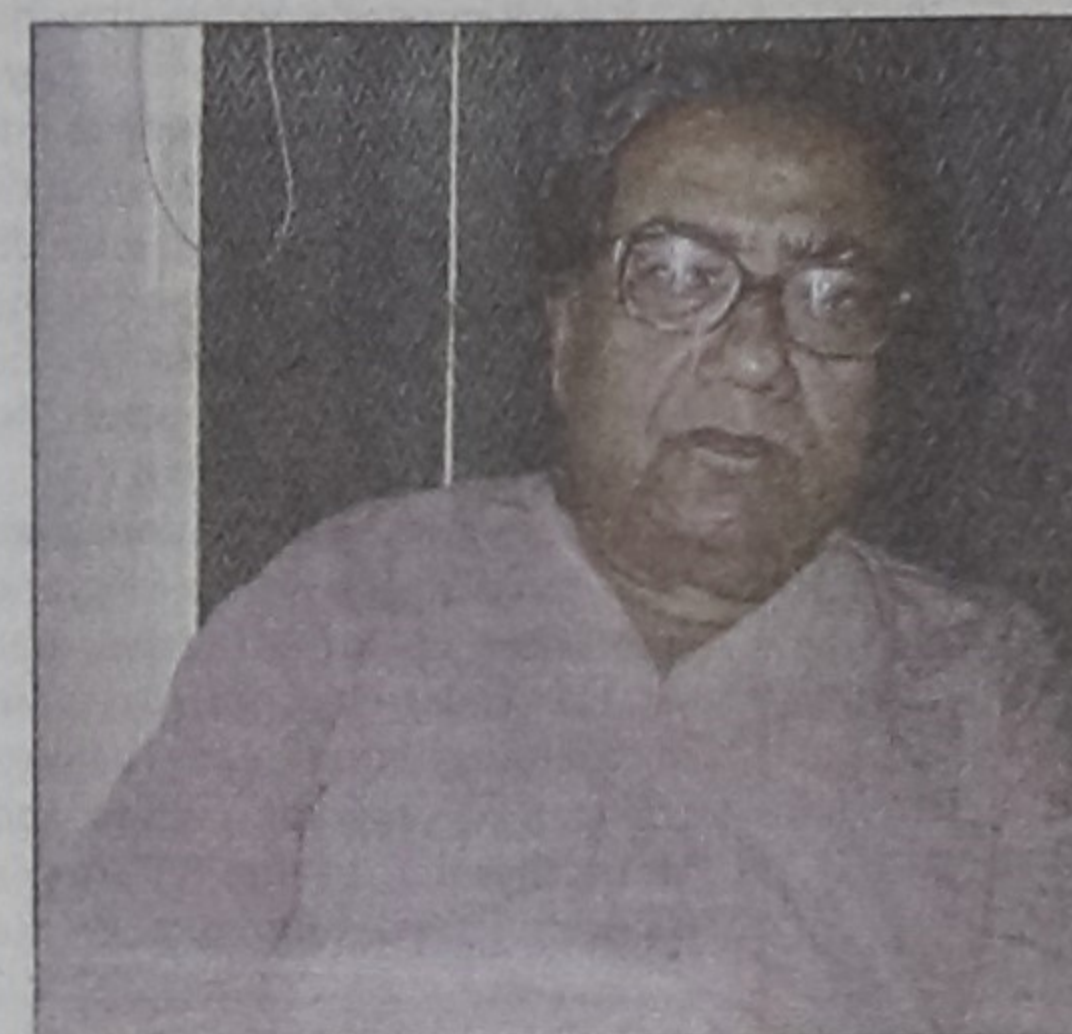
LRB took the stage next with Ayub Bachchu on the lead guitar. They started with an instrumental. After that LRB rendered their old hits including *Shudhu ki aamar bhu*, *Ghum bhanga shohoreyand Meye*.

James was the last performer of the night. He rendered three songs including *Maa* and *Deewana mastana*.

ACI Ltd, Warid Telecom, Millennium Development Goal 3: Empowering Women (Nari O Shishu Bishayak Mantranalay), RAK and Macomm were the sponsors of the programme. Media partners of the concert were Channel i, *Ananda Alo* and Radio Today. Hasan Abidur Reza Jewel was the MC of the programme.

Selim Al Deen's birth anniversary celebration

Participants from India evaluate the iconic Bangladeshi playwright



Arun Sen

ERSHAD KAMOL

Not only in Bangladesh, legendary dramatist-theoretician-organiser Selim Al Deen has attained popularity in West Bengal, India as well, particularly amongst the theatre practitioners.

Many journals and books are being published on Selim Al Deen in Kolkata. A research work on Al Deen is underway at Visva Bharati University. His plays are included as texts at Jadavpur University and Rabindra Bharati University. Moreover, theatre troupes in West Bengal such as Swapnasandhani are staging Al Deen's plays in Kolkata, which have become quite popular.

A young Indian director, Bishwa Roy's documentary titled *Drishye Adrishye Hridspondone* on Selim Al Deen has been screened at the ongoing birth anniversary celebration programme.

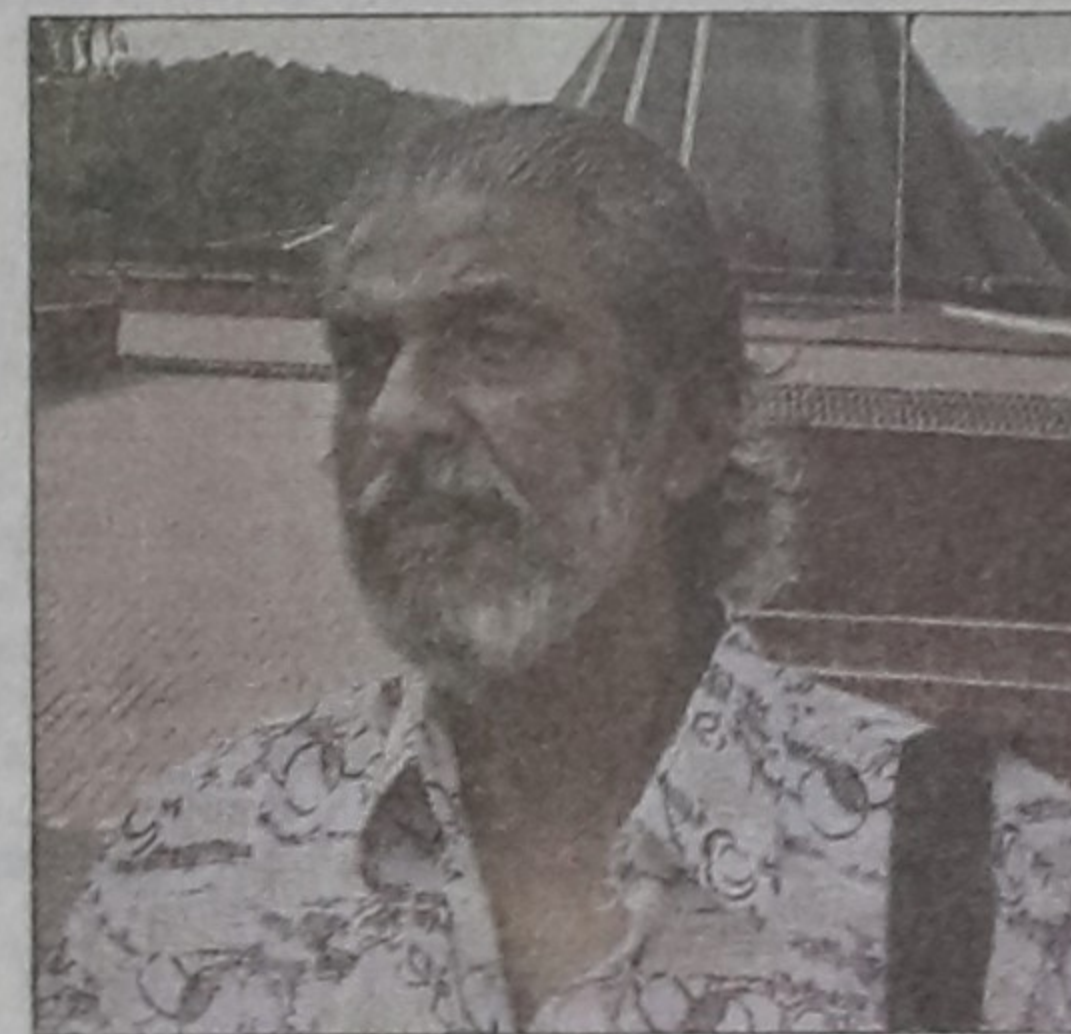
Coming to receive "Dhaka Theatre Sammanona" at the ongoing six-day Selim Al Deen birth anniversary celebration jointly organised by Dhaka Theatre and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Rudraprasad Sengupta, Swatilekha Sengupta and Arun Sen evaluated Selim Al Deen and went over Al Deen's admiration in Kolkata.

Rudraprasad Sengupta, one of the most prominent theatre personalities in this region, said, "Al Deen was a remarkable playwright by any standard, be it national or international. On several occasions, both in Kolkata and in Dhaka, we all leapt with joy or drowned in despair as we experienced the magic and mystique of his words."

"Playwrights like Al Deen can guide a nation at the crucial period by insightful writings. He has always highlighted the distinctive Bengali culture in an era of globalisation. I'm quite envious of his Gram Theatre concept," he added.

Renowned actor Swatilekha Sengupta said, "I'm really impressed by the diction and characterisation in Al Deen's drama."

Professor Arun Sen, a popular Indian critic who is considered an expert on Bangladeshi literature, has written many articles and a book -- *Selim Al Deen Nityakar Swadesh O Samagra*.



Rudraprasad Sengupta

He said, "Al Deen was unfamiliar to Indians even a few years back. After watching Dhaka Theatre productions at several festivals in Kolkata (including Nandikar Theatre Festival and Ganga-Padma Theatre Festival), I became fascinated with Al Deen's work. I collected all his writings and tried to discover him as a foreigner."

"Subsequently, I wrote an unusually big volume of article titled *Selim Al Deen Abishkar* in the Kolkata-based daily, *Pratikshan*. The article was basically an introduction to Selim Al Deen to denizens of Kolkata. Reading *Selim Al Deen Nityakar Swadesh O Samagra*, theatre activists became more interested in his works," he added.

As a professor of Jadavpur University at the Comparative Literature Department, Professor Arun Sen has included Al Deen's plays in the curriculum.

On the current popularity of Al Deen in Kolkata, Professor Sen informed, "Swapnodhani's (a Kolkata-based theatre troupe) two productions -- *Prachya* and *Hargol* -- have attained popularity in Kolkata. Theatre personality Usha Ganguli is also interested in Al Deen. Moreover, the deceased playwright is becoming more popular amongst the younger generation in Kolkata."

Dhali Al Mamoon's installation at the festival

The lobby of the National Theatre Stage has been decorated with a spectacular, large installation by renowned artist Dhali Al Mamoon. Entering the theatre hall one finds many small clay dolls on the floor and dolls in wicker cages. And at the two sides of the hall different human images are projected with a soundtrack featuring dialogues and music from Al Deen's plays.

Artist Dhali Al Mamoon said, "It's an extension of my previous installation titled *Time to Time*, featuring the contemporary socio-political turmoil."

"The multi-dimensional installation at the festival also focuses on an issue -- man is shackled in the contemporary flawed socio-political milieu. Dialogues and soundtracks from Al Deen's plays have been used to support the theme," he added.

Dance competition for youngsters on Ekushey TV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Ekushey TV will telecast the first episode of *Dhum Ta Na Cova Junior Stars 2008*, tonight at 7:45 pm.

Jointly sponsored by Globe Group and Prime Bank Limited, the show is a dance competition for children. The launching ceremony of the programme was held on August 19 at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka.

"The main reason behind this programme is to discover talented young dancers in the country," said Abdus Salam, chairman and CEO, Ekushey TV.

also the mastermind of the show.

Md. Harunur Rashid, chairman, Globe Pharmaceuticals Group of Companies Ltd and Ferdousi Sultana, senior vice-president and head of public relations, Prime Bank Ltd were also present at the event.

For the competition, youngsters were selected from 21 schools including Viqarunnisa Noon School & College, Bulbul Academy of Fine Arts, YWCA Girls School, Holy Cross School and Collage, Tridhara Nityakala Kendra, Oxford International School, The Aga Khan School and Spondon Cultural Organisation.

The contest will be judged by dance directors S. Alam, Imdadul Haque Khokon, Aziz Reza, Md. Kamal and Iran Ahmed. Zeenat Barkatullah, actor Amin Khan, Tamanna Rahman and others will be celebrity judges.

Actress Moushumi is the "dance queen of the show".

The programme will be aired on Ekushey TV on every Saturday and Thursday at 7:45 pm.

The programme is jointly produced by Silvana Sadiq and Tinku Azizur Rahman.

Radio Today is a media partner of the programme.



Moushumi (centre) with young contestants at the programme launch.

Folk singer Ustad Shafi Mondol accorded reception in Pabna

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR, Pabna

Noted folk singer Ustad Shafi Mondol was accorded a reception at Pabna Bonomali auditorium last Monday. 'Amra Pabnabashi', a socio-cultural group was the organiser of the programme. The event featured performances by folk artists.

Pabna Deputy Commissioner, Khondoker Mokhesur Rahman, was the chief guest while the Chief Executive Officer of Pabna Zila Parishad, Sadar Ali Bishwas, was the special guest. Former head of the Bangla Department, Pabna Edward College, Professor Mohammad Kamruzzaman; Dr Sarwar Jahan Fayeze, lecturer, English Department of Pabna Edward College and Ustad Shafi Mondol spoke at the programme. Akhteruzzaman, a teacher in the Chemistry Department, Pabna Bulbul College conducted the reception.

Speakers expressed the view that folk music is the root of our culture. This region is famous for folk and mystical songs and this music nurtures

the link between the human body and soul -- they said.

Speakers also pointed out that Ustad Shafi Mondol works as a cultural connection between Kushtia and Pabna. The artiste is originally from Kushtia but his songs are renowned in Pabna.

The honouree said that folk artists are in a sense "philosophers". "A true folk artiste has to leave material aspirations behind and lead a spiritual life," he said. "Human life is very, short. So we have to enhance our soul by doing well unto others and shunning harmful acts or violence," he added.

Later the guests handed wreaths and crests to Ustad Shafi Mondol. Among the organisations that honoured the artiste were 'Amra Pabnabashi', 'Baul M.A. Gafur Academy' and 'Pabna and Headey Creative Group'. Cultural activists, teachers, journalists and a section of the society were present at the function.

Later a musical programme was held at the venue. Ustad Shafi Mondol himself performed at the programme.



The installation by Dhali Al Mamoon.

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

An evening of Baul songs at Dhaka University

The Tourism and Hospitality Management Department of Dhaka University and Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation jointly organised a cultural programme featuring Baul songs on August 18 at the conference hall of Business Studies Department, DU. The event was a part of a promotion programme to secure the top positions for Cox's Bazar and Sundarban in the list of the new seven natural wonders, says a

press release. Kushtia Bauls, a troupe from Kushtia, the land of Lalon, performed at the event. Their performances featured mostly the songs of Lalon, accompanied by several other folk genres such as *Bhawaiya* and songs of Hason Raja. Attired in *gerua* coloured outfit, the Bauls won the hearts of the audience with songs like *Elahi amingo Allah*, *Emon shomaj korogo srijon*, *Manush chhara*

khepaare tui, *Dhoro choron chheronago* and more.

Led by Baul Guru Belal Siddiqui, Anjali Ghosh Durga, Ruma Akhter, Habibur Rahman, Sadhon Khapaa, Khairul Baul and others performed at the event. Bazlur Rahman played the *banshi*. Sayeed was on *tabla*, Sajib on *dholak*, Khayrul on *khomok* and Belal Siddiqui was on *juri*. The event was managed by the editor.net.